

REMARKS

Claims 3, 16, 18-22 have been canceled. Claims 2, 4-14, and 17, amended claims 1 and 15, and new claims 23 and 24 are in this application.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. Japan Publication No. 10-070641 in view of Safai et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469 Smith et al. U.S. Publication No. 6,192,407, and Narayen et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,035,323.

Features from dependent claim 3 have been incorporated herein into independent claim 1, and features from dependent claim 16 have been incorporated herein into independent claim 15.

Amended independent claim 1 now recites in part the following:

"an image distribution server . . . for authenticating the user identification and/or password information by use of a certification server; and, only when the user identification and/or password information has been successfully authenticated, for generating a URL used for retrieving and viewing said image data, and transmitting said URL to said image display apparatus using said e-mail address;" (Emphasis added.)

As best understood, the Examiner appears to rely on Narayen (and, in particular, Figure 7 steps 281-283 and 291-295, Figures 8 and 9, lines 3-14 and 51-67 of column 10, and lines 1-25 of column 11 thereof) to disclose the above features of claim 1. (See line 15 of page 5 to line 10 of page 6 of the present Official Action.)

It is respectfully submitted that the portions of Narayen et al. relied on by the Examiner (hereinafter, merely "Narayen") do not disclose the image distribution server for

generating and transmitting as specifically recited in amended claim 1. That is, claim 1 specifically recites ". . . and, only when the user identification and/or password information has been successfully authenticated, for generating a URL used for retrieving and viewing said image data, and transmitting said URL to said image display apparatus using said e-mail address."

(Emphasis added.) In other words, the image distribution server of claim 1 may generate a URL and transmit the URL to the image display apparatus using an e-mail address. Narayen, on the other hand, does not appear to disclose transmitting the URL to an image display apparatus using an e-mail address.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., and Narayen et al. For reasons similar to those previously described with regard to claim 1, it is also respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 15 is distinguishable from the applied combination of Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., and Narayen et al.

Claims 4, 6-14, and 17 are dependent from one of independent claims 1 and 15. Accordingly, it is also respectfully submitted that dependent claims 4, 6-14, and 17 are distinguishable from Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., and Narayen et al. as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. Japan Patent Publication No. 10-070641 in view of Safai et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469, Smith et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,192,407, Narayen et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,035,323 and Parulski et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,666,159.

Claim 2 is dependent from independent claim 1 and, as such, includes all of the features set forth therein.

Accordingly, claim 2 is distinguishable from Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., and Narayen et al. as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described with regard to claim 1. The Examiner appears to only rely on Purulski et al. for the features of claim 2 and not to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., and Narayen et al. Accordingly, claim 2 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., Narayen et al. and Purulski et al.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maeda et al. Japan Publication No. 10-070641 in view pf Safai et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,167,469, Smith et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,192,407, Narayen et al. U.S. Patent 6,035,323 and Watanabe et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,642,958.

Claim 5 is dependent from independent claim 1 and, as such, includes all of the features set forth therein. Accordingly, claim 5 is distinguishable from Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., and Narayen et al. as applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described with regard to claim 1. The Examiner appears to only rely on Watanabe et al. for the features of claim 5 and not to overcome the above-described deficiencies of Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., and Narayen et al. Accordingly, claim 5 is believed to be distinguishable from the applied combination of Maeda et al., Safai et al., Smith et al., Narayen et al., and Watanabe et al.

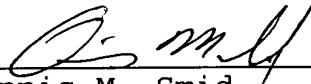
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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